

CLAIMS

1. A method of easing a patient's pain and anxiety from atrial defibrillation comprising causing said patient to inhale an effective amount of a medical gas and activating an atrial defibrillation device while said patient is under the influence of said medical gas, whereby said inhalation of said medical gas produces in said patient at least one effect selected from the group consisting of analgesia, anxiolysis, and anterograde amnesia immediately prior to, during and immediately after said activating of said atrial defibrillation device.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said medical gas comprises a gas selected from the group consisting of  $N_2O/O_2/He$ ,  $N_2O/O_2$ ,  $N_2O/O_2/N_2$ ,  $Xe/O_2$ ,  $Xe/O_2/N_2$ , and  $Xe/O_2/He$ .

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said medical gas comprising  $N_2O/O_2$  comprises from about 35% to 70% of said  $N_2O$ .

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said medical gas comprising  $N_2O/O_2$  comprises from about 55% to 65% of said  $N_2O$  and from about 35% to 45% of said  $O_2$ .

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said atrial defibrillation device comprises an atrial fibrillation implantable cardioverter defibrillator, and wherein said medical gas is administered immediately prior to said patient's activating of said atrial fibrillation implantable cardioverter defibrillator.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said medical gas is administered within a period of less than about 4 minutes prior to said activating of said atrial defibrillation device.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said medical gas is administered within a period of less than about 2 to 3 minutes prior to said activation of said atrial defibrillation device.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said medical gas comprises  $N_2O/O_2$  and wherein said  $N_2O$  is present in an amount between 55% and 70% thereof.

9. A method of easing a patient's pain and anxiety from ventricular defibrillation comprising activating a ventricular defibrillation device and subsequently causing said patient to inhale an effective amount of a medical gas, whereby said inhalation of said medical gas produces in said patient at least one effect selected from the group consisting of analgesia, anxiolysis, and anterograde amnesia.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said medical gas comprises a gas selected from the group consisting of  $N_2O/O_2/He$ ,  $N_2O/O_2$ ,  $N_2O/O_2/N_2$ ,  $Xe/O_2$ ,  $Xe/O_2/N_2$ , and  $Xe/O_2/He$ .

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said medical gas comprising  $N_2O/O_2$  comprises from about 35% to 70% of said  $N_2O$ .

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said medical gas comprising  $N_2O/O_2$  comprises from about 55% to 65% of  $N_2O$  and from about 35% to 45% of said  $O_2$ .

13. The method of claim 9 wherein said ventricular defibrillation device is selected from the group consisting of a ventricular fibrillation implantable cardioverter defibrillator and an automatic external cardioverter defibrillator, and wherein said medical gas is administered subsequent to said activating of said ventricular defibrillation device.

14. The method of claim 9 wherein said medical gas is administered within a period of about 4 minutes subsequent to said activating of said ventricular defibrillation device.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said medical gas is administered within a period of about 2 to 3 minutes subsequent to said activating of said ventricular defibrillation device.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein said medical gas comprises  $N_2O/O_2$  and wherein said  $N_2O$  is present in an amount of between 55% and 70% thereof.